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Notes on the Statistical Determination of the Causes of Poverty. A. G. WARNER. American Statistical Association. March, 1889.

The following are some of the conclusions of the writer: The method of case-counting is likely to exaggerate subjective influences as compared with objective; thus the immediate cause of poverty may be deterioration of character, the primary cause environment. Confusion arises also from the fact that under exactly similar conditions, some families are destitute and some not. From Mr. Booth's statistical tables of East London, we find that casual laborers comprise but 4.8 per cent. of the whole population, but more than 41 per cent. of "the very poor"; that families having female heads include 3.7 per cent. of the whole population, but furnish more than 11 per cent. of "the very poor," and more than 6 per cent. of "the poor." Mr. Booth says, that intemperance is a contributing cause in many cases where it cannot be reckoned the principal one; that the poverty of the poor is mainly the result of the competition of the very poor. The entire removal of this class out of the daily struggle for existence is the only solution of the problem of poverty. Turning to our own country, Mr. Kellogg, from figures gleaned from the reports of about forty charity organization societies in our leading cities, finds in New York and Boston, that the percentage of those needing work, rather than relief, has been 53.4, and of the unworthy, 15.8. One third of the cases actually treated were in need of material assistance, for which friendly counsel or restraint could not compensate. A logical application to the whole country is that two-thirds of its real or simulated destitution could be stopped by a more perfect adjustment of the supply and demand for labor, and a more vigorous and enlightened police administration. Dugdale concludes from his study of the Jukes that environment is the primary cause, and heredity is an organized result of invariable environment.

In an article entitled "Scientific Charity," in the *Popular Science Monthly* for August, 1889, Dr. Warner illustrates the importance of the empirical method, as applied to charity. Scientific charity, as opposed to pure emotional philanthropy, regards poverty as an evil to be assailed in its causes; it does not merely pity poverty, but studies it. Thirty-four charity organization societies, representing cities containing one-eighth of our population, and probably one-sixth of its pauperism reported at the National Conference in 1887. From careful estimates, it is supposed that these cities contained about 456,000 paupers. Over 62 per cent. of this number actually came under the charge of these societies, that is, they had 57,000 families, containing about 285,000 persons, to deal with. Twenty-five of these societies agreed in classifying under four heads. By careful analysis of nearly 28,000 cases, including over 100,000 persons, the results were as follows:

Those needing continuous relief,	10.3 per cent.
" temporary "	26.6 " "
" work rather than relief,	40.4 " "
Unworthy of relief,	22.7 " "

As an example of the value of more elaborated figures, the results of the Buffalo society are given, on a basis of 1407 families, including 5388 persons. The chief cause of destitution was lack of employment in 263 cases; sickness in 326; no male support in 373; intemperance in 124; physical defects in 113; insufficient earnings in 87; accidents in 45; imprisonment of bread-winner in 35; shiftlessness in 26; and insanity in 15. Out of these 1407 destitute families, the respective heads of 1019 of them could both read and write; 49 others could read, but not write; and 339, or 24 per cent. were wholly illiterate. It is interesting to recognize that by this method, the philanthropist, with the principle of enlightened self-sacrifice finds himself in accord with the economist, with his enlightened self-interest.